

# Healing, connection and *humankindness*



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And more!

## Healing, connection and *humankindness*

The heart of what we do at St. Thomas More Health Foundation is simple: caring for our neighbors. We are committed to building a healthy Cañon City, so that every individual, family and community has the chance to thrive.

This year, we are eager to lean even further into that work, particularly as we embrace the mission, vision and values of our managing health system, CommonSpirit Health. CommonSpirit has always been our partner in care, and our Foundation's purpose remains the same – we are the same people, the same hearts, dedicated to health care for all.

You might hear us talking more about collaboration, excellence, inclusion and **humankindness**. These are just some of the values that motivate us to identify our community's unique needs. When we lead with these values, we can **connect** with local partners and support **healing** initiatives like renovated spaces, updated equipment and employee scholarships that increase quality of care.

**This work is only possible because of generosity from community members like you.** Your contributions ensure that St. Thomas More Hospital can deliver more inclusive, accessible and affordable care – more humankindness. Together, we can help everyone in our Fremont County community flourish!

With gratitude,



Linda Russell  
Philanthropy Officer  
St. Thomas More Health Foundation



100% of all gifts to St. Thomas More Health Foundation stay local, fulfilling the needs of the patients and communities we serve.

Make a gift at [Tinyurl.com/StThomasMoreDonate](https://Tinyurl.com/StThomasMoreDonate) or scan the QR code.

To learn more, please contact me at [LindaRussell@Centura.org](mailto:LindaRussell@Centura.org) or (719) 557-5247. Thank you!

Gifts to St. Thomas More Health Foundation are making a remarkable impact. Together, we can help our Fremont County communities flourish!

\$9,189

raised through Colorado Gives Day and Year-End Appeal efforts

\$458,118

disbursed to our Greatest Needs Fund and Hospital Support Fund, supporting the most critical projects so that patients never have to wait for the most advanced care

\$76,255

distributed in grants through the Yankton Benedictine Sisters Fund, supporting local nonprofits as they enhance our community's public health

\$17,430

paid to Flight For Life® Colorado, ensuring crew members can continue to safely transport patients – no matter their ability to pay

\*Results reflect distributions made between 07/01/2022 and 01/31/2024

## Thank you to our board members!

Kristi Elliott

Shawn Sutton

Mike Cafasso, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Andrew Burbidge, Chief Finance Officer

Joel Dickerman, DO, Chief Medical Officer

Jennifer Gabel-Adney, NEA-BC, Chief Nursing Officer

Rick Kamerzell, Chief Operations Officer

Linda Russell, Philanthropy Officer

Deacon Marco Vegas, Director of Mission and Ministry

Mary Baxter, Stewardship Coordinator



## 1 Enhancing healing spaces for our patients

Last fall, we shared that the Foundation had approved the disbursement of funds to improve our hospital's physical spaces with renovations and new equipment. Today, we are pleased to announce that renovations are complete!

These changes focused on three areas: the emergency department (ED), intensive care unit (ICU) and chapel.

In the emergency department, renovations added another exam room, expanded our caregiver breakroom, and enhanced patient safety and navigation. Thanks to these changes, our caregivers can treat more patients, and patients can feel more confident and secure throughout their entire care experience.

The intensive care unit has been relocated next to the emergency department, adding four additional beds and allowing the neighboring teams to work more collaboratively with each other. Each room has updated electronics, plus access to the imaging department's new C-arm, which provides seamless and efficient high-quality imaging procedures.

Finally, patients can look forward to more inviting, quiet spaces for prayer, difficult conversations or rest. A family waiting area near the ICU's new location has been updated, and our hospital's chapel, which hadn't been updated since it was built in 1968, also got some TLC.

**Thank you to our generous donor community!** You have helped enhance our healing spaces – creating a smooth and comfortable experience for patients, and a team-oriented work environment for caregivers.

## 2 Clinical excellence begins with education!

Thanks to contributions from our generous donors, we are very pleased to announce that we have re-opened our Scholarship Program to St. Thomas More Hospital employees this spring.

Applications will be accepted between May 1 and June 15, and eligible employees may receive awards of up to \$20,000 in scholarship funds for advanced education in a medical field. When we invest in caregivers, we ensure that our community continues to receive high-quality, compassionate care – both now and in the future!



If you or someone you know might be interested in applying for a scholarship, visit [Tinyurl.com/STMScholarshipAPP](https://tinyurl.com/STMScholarshipAPP) for more information – or scan the QR code on the left. To learn more,

contact Linda Russell, Philanthropy Officer, at [LindaRussell@Centura.org](mailto:LindaRussell@Centura.org).

### Know the benefits of your generosity

St. Thomas More Health Foundation is one of 16 Enterprise Zones designated by the state of Colorado to grant generous tax credits. By making a gift of \$250 or more, tax-paying residents are eligible for state income tax credits up to 25%, and those who make in-kind donations may receive up to a 12.5% credit.

For more details about this program, please contact Mary Baxter, Stewardship Coordinator, at [MaryBaxter@Centura.org](mailto:MaryBaxter@Centura.org) or (719) 776-7182.

### 3 Committed to a healthy Fremont County: 2024 Yankton Benedictine Sisters Fund Grantees

On Wednesday, March 6, our Foundation was honored to present the 2024 Yankton Benedictine Sisters Fund Grants to seven deserving organizations.

Each year, our Foundation offers community organizations an opportunity to apply for a grant from the Yankton Benedictine Sisters Fund. The Fund began in 2004 when the Benedictine Sisters left a generous \$1 million gift to the St. Thomas More Health Foundation to continue their legacy and benefit our Fremont County community.

“These grants are very special to the hospital and the foundation because it keeps the 85-year legacy of the Yankton Benedictine Sisters alive. They dedicated their lives to caring for the sick and nurturing the health of our neighbors in Cañon City,” said Mike Cafasso, interim CEO, St. Thomas More Hospital.

Thanks to this grant, Heart of Colorado CASA is rapidly approaching its goal of serving every family that approaches them for assistance in the court system. In 2022, they had to turn away nearly 100 children. But “last year, we served 82 children... and we only had to turn away 35,” said Michelle Cook, Program Director. “We’re closing that gap... thank you for helping us close it.”

The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton, South Dakota, helped build our hospital in Cañon City nearly 85 years ago. They transferred sponsorship of the hospital to the Sisters of Charity in 1994 – and, after sharing their most generous gift, the last Benedictine Sisters returned to their monastery home in 2004. We are humbled with the privilege to carry on their legacy.

#### Congratulations to our 2024 grant recipients!

- Cañon City High School Funfest 2024
- Cañon Literacy Center
- Family Crisis Center
- Florence RE-2 School District Beaver Packs
- Heart of Colorado CASA
- Hope House
- Senior Services Solutions Plus

#### A legacy that endures

Now that tax season is ending, have you considered how you want to plan your charitable giving for the rest of 2024? There are many ways you can ensure that your support continues to enhance the lives of St. Thomas More patients, families and providers for generations to come.

We invite you to connect with us to explore these options, and more:

- Bequest
- Beneficiary of Retirement Plan or Insurance Policy
- Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)
- Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)
- Property (Home, Farm or Real Estate)
- Named Endowment

Schedule a meeting today with Linda Russell, Philanthropy Officer, to discuss how you can leave a legacy that makes a meaningful difference to the future of Fremont County. Contact Linda at [LindaRussell@Centura.org](mailto:LindaRussell@Centura.org) or (719) 557-5247.



#### Mark your calendars!

#### Flight For Life® Golf Tournament Monday, May 20, 2024



Players are getting ready for our annual golf tournament that benefits Flight For Life Colorado!

We hope you will join us for this special event, which is jointly hosted by St. Mary-Corwin and St. Thomas More Health Foundations.

Pueblo Country Club Golf Course  
3200 8th Avenue  
Pueblo, CO 81008



Learn more and register at  
[Tinyurl.com/SMCGolf2024](https://tinyurl.com/SMCGolf2024)  
or scan the QR code

We make the healing presence of God known in our world by improving the health of the people we serve, especially those who are vulnerable, while we advance social justice for all.



To give in support of our mission, visit [Tinyurl.com/StThomasMoreDonate](https://Tinyurl.com/StThomasMoreDonate) or scan the QR code to the left.



Contact Linda Russell at [LindaRussell@Centura.org](mailto:LindaRussell@Centura.org) or (719) 557-5247 to learn more about the Foundation or discuss giving options.

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